

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

~~TAB-B~~

TCS-3644-58

From: Chief of Naval Operations
To: Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Subj: Sanitization of TALENT Photography

In reply refer to
Op-922H1F/HCA/rrm
Ser NT-00187
12 June 1958

1. For some time now the Navy has been concerned with the fact that carrier strike pilots are being denied some of the best information available for strike planning. This refers to your TALENT photography and the intelligence materials derived therefrom. The Secretary of the Navy and both the Commander in Chief, Atlantic Fleet and the Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet have expressed strong feeling over this outstanding impairment to fleet combat readiness.
2. The control of TALENT-based targeting materials within the TALENT Control System results in two conditions, the first of which seriously affects fleet strike readiness. First, the strike pilots cannot study the actual photographs until after an emergency is declared. By then, it may very well be too late for the materials to be of optimum tactical use. Second, stowage space aboard the aircraft carriers is very limited. The present system of using "sealed packages" imposes critical courier and stowage problems. In point of fact, stowage must now be provided for both "second rate" existing target materials and the more desirable TALENT materials.
3. Targeting materials used aboard the carriers are generally classified SECRET NOFORN. However, since those materials contain information related to both Emergency War Plans and special weapons, the principles of "need to know" and close security are applied most rigidly.
4. TALENT coverage of targets of paramount interest to the Navy relates to the European Satellites, the Leningrad and Kola Peninsula areas, and the Soviet Far East Maritime Provinces. Specific areas of interest are airfields, submarine bases and other naval installations, guided missile sites, and navigation check points. Use of photography related to such areas for advance study by strike pilots is mandatory if optimum readiness is to be obtained and maintained.
5. It is therefore requested that the Navy be authorized to sanitize appropriately TALENT photography covering atomic strike targets (and associated check points) to which atomic weapons have been assigned.

NAVY HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION
AND RELEASE.

HANDLE VIA TALENT
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

s/ Arleigh Burke
ARLEIGH BURKE

SECRET